

**Water Quality Cooperative Agreements/ Grants**  
**FY 2004 Requests for Proposals**  
**Full Text - published 12/8/03**

**I. Funding Opportunity Description**

The purpose of this grant program is to provide funding for projects that are unique and innovative and that address the requirements of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination Systems (NPDES) program. This program falls under Goal 2 (Clean and Safe Water), Objective 2 (Protect water Quality), Sub-objective 1 (Improve water quality on a watershed basis), of the strategy that EPA is using to meet the requirements of the Government Performance and Results Act.

Special emphasis will be on projects that enhance the ability of the regulated community to deal with non-traditional pollution problems in priority watersheds. Specifically, US EPA Region 9 is seeking unique and innovative proposals related to TMDL development, water quality standards development, and monitoring to support TMDL and standards development. Projects that result in *completed* TMDLs, or *revised/new* water quality standards will receive high priority under this program. TMDL related proposals should clearly demonstrate how the project fits in the statewide TMDL strategy.

**II. Award Information**

EPA Region 9 Water Division intends to award an estimated \$1.1 million to eligible applicants through assistance agreements ranging in size from \$50,000 up to \$150,000 for Water Quality Cooperative Agreements/Grants. From the Initial Proposals received, EPA estimates that 10 to 15 projects may be selected to submit full applications. Both initial and renewal proposals will be accepted for consideration.

**III. Eligibility Information**

US EPA Region 9 is soliciting proposals from States, Tribes, local governments, universities, non-profits and other eligible entities interested in applying for Federal assistance for Water Quality Cooperative Agreements (CFDA 66.463) under the Clean Water Act section 104 (b) (3).

Assistance will be targeted to applicants who have successfully demonstrated the ability to carry out Federal grant programs. No matching funds are required. However, applicants may provide a non-federal cash or in-kind match to indicate the organizations commitment to completing the project. Costs incurred prior to grant award will not be reimbursed. Please note funds awarded through this program may not be used to support ongoing administrative costs, research or other ineligible costs as outlined in 40 CFR Parts 30 and 31.

This solicitation is limited to projects conducted in EPA Region 9. Region 9 serves Arizona, California, Hawaii, Nevada, and the Pacific Islands. Tribal Nations in Region 9 are encouraged to apply under a separate solicitation (contact Loretta Vanegas at [vanegas.loretta@epa.gov](mailto:vanegas.loretta@epa.gov) for more information).

#### **IV. Initial Proposal Guidelines – Format and Content**

Initial proposals should be limited to 4 pages, single-spaced. Full application packages should not be submitted at this time. Applicants should be sure to address the relevance of their project to the selection criteria outlined in section V. The following format should be followed:

1. Name of project.
2. Contact information (Individual and organization name, address phone, fax and email).
3. Is this a continuation of a previously funded project? If yes, please provide the number and status of the current grant or cooperative agreement.
4. Description of proposed budget. Budget should identify all federal and other sources of funding for the project including the recipient cost-share. Cost-sharing is not required but will contribute to the strength of a proposal. Budgets should clearly identify categories for funding distribution (supplies, contractual, equipment, staff, etc).
5. Project description – should include description of the project area as well as how project relates to regional priorities for water quality improvement. TMDL related proposals should clearly demonstrate how the project fits in the State level TMDL efforts.
6. Description of expected project results and outcomes including performance measures and results that include a) indicators and benchmarks; b) supporting data to be collected and how; and c) a timeline for interim and final target dates. Applicants should also describe methods for assessing and reporting performance measures.
7. Communication plan for distributing project results to the public and interested parties.

Please send three (double-sided printing is encouraged) copies of the IPs to:

Tina Yin, Program Coordinator  
U.S. EPA Region 9 (WTR-7)  
75 Hawthorne St.  
San Francisco, CA 94105

**Initial proposals must be received by EPA by Feb 8, 2004. Proposals received after this date will not be reviewed or considered for funding under this program.**

#### **V. Initial Proposal Review and Ranking Criteria**

EPA will award Water Quality Cooperative Grants/Agreements on a competitive basis. The following criteria will be considered on a 100 point scale:

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| 30 points: | The relationship of the proposed project to the priorities identified in this notice.  |
| 25 points: | How well the project furthers the goal of the Clean Water Act to prevent, reduce, and eliminate water pollution, including performance measures, as described in #6 of the Proposal Guidelines of this solicitation. |
| 10 Points: | Leverage of other resources (e.g., cost share, participation by other organizations) and cost effectiveness of the proposal.   |
| 10 points: | Experience with EPA-funded grant programs.   |
| 25 points: | Communication plan to transfer results of the project to other potentially interested parties.   |

In addition to scoring each proposal, the selection committee will convene to discuss the strengths and weaknesses of each proposal. The committee will submit its recommendations to the Water Division Director who will make the final award determination. Selected organizations will be notified and requested to submit a full application.

## **VI. Award Administration**

Initial proposals that are selected for continuance in the process will be sent an application kit for funding. These applicants will be invited to submit a detailed workplan and the completed application for funding. Receipt of an application kit is not a guarantee of funding. Deadlines must be met and the work plan must be approved by the EPA Project Officer for funding to occur.

Regulations governing the award and administration of Water Quality Cooperative Agreements: 40 CFR part 30 (for institutions of higher learning, hospitals, and other non-profit organizations) and 40 CFR part 31 and 40 CFR part 35, subparts A and B (for States, local governments, and interstate agencies).

Quarterly project status reports and all Financial Status Reports will be required. Quarterly reports should describe project activities and provide the EPA Project Officer with information about project development. The Financial Status Report must accurately account for all federal funds expended and identify appropriate use of federal funds.

Disputes: Procedures at 40 CFR 30.63 and 40 CFR 31.70 will apply.

Confidentiality: Applicants must clearly mark information they consider confidential and EPA will make confidentiality decisions in accordance with Agency Regulations at 40 CFR, Part 2, Subpart B.

EPA reserves the right to reject all proposals and to not make any awards.

## **VII. Agency Contact**

For additional information, please contact

Tina Yin, Program Coordinator

Phone: (415) 972-3579

Fax: (415) 947-3549

Email: [yin.christina@epa.gov](mailto:yin.christina@epa.gov)

